

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (cancelled)

2. (previously presented) A motor vehicle frame assembly having a first tubular frame member, and a structural member disposed in the first tubular frame member, the structural member comprising:

a generally tubular rigid body having an outer perimeter parallel to and in abutting engagement with an inner perimeter of the first tubular frame member, the tubular body being disposed within the first tubular frame member to increase the moment of inertia of the first tubular frame member; and

at least one rib disposed in and spanning an interior void of, and in abutting engagement with, the tubular rigid body;
wherein the frame assembly further includes a second tubular frame member intersecting the first tubular frame member to form a joint and the structural member is located in the first tubular frame member at the joint.

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the structural member is constructed of aluminum.

5. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the structural member is constructed of steel.

6. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the structural member is extruded.

7. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the structural member is machined.

8. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the structural member is fixedly attached to the first tubular frame member.

9. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 8, wherein the structural member is fixedly attached by an interference fit.

10. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 8, wherein the structural member is fixedly attached by adhesive.

11. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 8, wherein the structural member is fixedly attached by fasteners.

12. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 8, wherein the structural member is fixedly attached by external depressions.

13. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the tubular body has a length and the rib extends the length of the tubular body.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the rib is orientated generally vertically.

16. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the at least one rib comprises multiple ribs orientated in an intersecting pattern.

17. (previously presented) A motor vehicle frame assembly having first and second elongate frame members and a reinforcing member, the reinforcing member comprising:

a rigid tube having an outer perimeter substantially mating and in abutting engagement with an inner perimeter of a tubular portion of the first frame member and a reinforcement structure spanning an interior void of, and in abutting engagement with, the rigid tube; and

wherein the first and second frame members are connected at a joint and the reinforcing member is disposed in the first frame member at the joint.

18. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of claim 17, wherein the reinforcement structure comprises a longitudinal rib.

19. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of claim 17, wherein the second frame member is tubular and the joint occurs at a central portion of the first frame member, the reinforcing member extending within the first frame member through the joint.

20. (previously presented) The motor vehicle frame assembly of claim 17, wherein the reinforcing member is fully enclosed by the first frame member.